

war effort. This tragedy united our country against a common enemy.

As a 24-year Army veteran, we must always remember this day as a reminder to be vigilant and always prepared.

Today, we honor those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor. May we never forget their sacrifice and service to our great Nation.

#### COMPENSATION FOR FIRE SURVIVORS

(Mr. THOMPSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of California wildfire survivors.

Following the disastrous wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018, a court-ordered trust was established to compensate survivors for their loss of property. These funds are nowhere near enough to fully compensate for the loss of a home. Even worse, I have heard from countless constituents concerned that the funds they receive from the trust will be taxed.

That is why I, along with Congressman LAMALFA, introduced H.R. 7305, to make clear that settlement proceeds like these are nontaxable.

This legislation is absolutely essential to wildfire survivors, many of whom still cannot return to a home on their property.

The sad reality is that more natural disasters, including fires, will happen in the future. It is critical that Congress pass this legislation now.

This bill ensures Americans impacted by disasters do not owe unfair taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to include this legislation in any omnibus or spending bill moving forward.

#### HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES EXPAND EXPORTS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8844, the STEP Improvement Act of 2022.

I was proud to join Representatives FLOOD, EVANS, and NEWMAN to introduce this bill to help our small businesses expand exports and reach new markets.

The STEP Improvement Act would reauthorize the State trade and export program from fiscal year 2023 to 2026, for 3 more years, and improve the program by streamlining the application process for small businesses and implementing strong metrics so the program works as intended.

Since STEP's creation in 2011, my home State of California has received \$8.5 million in STEP funding, helping more than 1,200 small businesses create jobs and generate more than \$85 mil-

lion in export sales. That is 10 times the return on our investment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who helped to pass this legislation yesterday in the House.

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#### IN SUPPORT OF THE NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the \$2.8 million included in the National Defense Authorization Act for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

This funding will support construction of a new combined operations and alert facility at the base. The project is important to the 914th Air Refueling Wing and national readiness.

A strong and efficient 914th is good for the country and for western New York. The air reserve station is Niagara County's largest employer, generating \$300 million in economic impact on the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this funding and enhance mission response.

#### CELEBRATING CAROL HERNANDEZ

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my incredible Air Force fellow, Carol Hernandez, for her tremendous work this past year in my office.

Carol has been instrumental in all things related to the Armed Services Committee, especially when it came to the NDAA and looking for ways to improve the DOD acquisitions process. Her wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise has been crucial in helping address issues important to Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District.

We will miss Carol, not for only what she brought to us legislatively, but mostly because of who she is as a person. Carol is truly one of the most kind, thoughtful, and genuine people I have ever met. She is also whip smart, an engineer, and an amazing mother to four daughters.

Although I am excited for her new chapter, it has been a pleasure to have her in my office. She will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Carol for everything she has done for Team Bice.

#### CONGRESS MUST SAFEGUARD SAME-SEX AND INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this summer the Supreme Court issued the

Dobbs decision, a direct assault on the right to safe and legal abortion.

In a disturbing concurrence to an already dangerous decision, Justice Clarence Thomas attacked Obergefell v. Hodges, which underpins the right to marriage equality.

With the right to marry potentially at risk, House Democrats put people over politics and took action to protect marriage equality for all Americans.

The Respect for Marriage Act prevents right-wing extremists from overturning legal precedent and ensures statutory protections for same-sex and interracial marriages across the country.

While extremist Republicans continue their path to destroy American freedom and challenge the legitimacy of LGBTQ families, Democrats are protecting American people's right to marry who they love.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this crucial bill to safeguard same-sex and interracial marriages, and I look forward to seeing President Biden sign this bill into law to protect and respect the right to marriage equality across our country.

#### CONGRATULATING THE 2022 RECIPIENTS OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION AWARDS

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2022 recipients of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission awards.

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, or GMRC, offers guidance and resources to nearly 50 local governments, fostering leadership, economic development, and prosperity to improve northeast Georgia communities.

GMRC recently celebrated its 60th anniversary and honored this year's accomplished award recipients.

I am pleased to congratulate:

Joe Rothwell, regional planner for GMRC, as employee of the year;

John Sell, community and economic development director of White County, as appointed official of the year;

The mayor of Dawsonville, Mike Eason, as elected official of the year;

The mayor of Lavonia, Mr. Courtney Umbehant, as GMRC council member of the year; and

Ken Schubring, GMRC vice chairman, who received this year's chairman award.

I am proud to honor this year's Georgia Mountains Regional Commission award recipients, and I thank each of them for their hard work and dedication to serving northeast Georgians.

#### CONDEMNING IRAN KILLING CHILDREN

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1